

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23 (New): An apparatus comprising:

an at least partially automated microscope including at least one configurable subassembly having at least one element, the at least one element having a plurality of positions; and

a computer associated with the microscope, the computer including:

a display,

an input device, and

a database configured to store respective configurations of the at least one element for the at least one configurable subassembly.

Claim 24 (New): The apparatus as recited in claim 23 wherein the at least one configurable subassembly comprises at least one of a motorized tube, an incident light axis, an objective nosepiece, a Z-drive for setting a focus, an X/Y-stage, a lamp, a condenser and a control knob.

Claim 25 (New): The apparatus as recited in claim 23 wherein the at least one configurable subassembly is automated.

Claim 26 (New): The apparatus as recited in claim 25 wherein the at least one configurable subassembly comprises at least one of a motorized tube, an incident light axis, an objective nosepiece, a Z-drive for setting a focus, an X/Y-stage, a lamp, a condenser, and a control knob.

Claim 27 (New): The apparatus as recited in claim 23 wherein the display is configured to depict a plurality of user interfaces, each including at least three areas.

Claim 28 (New): The apparatus as recited in claim 27 wherein a first area of a first user interface of the user interfaces depicts a selection of at least three modules comprising a first module providing a configuration of the microscope, a second module providing a fine tuning and a third module providing an operation of the microscope.

Claim 29 (New): The apparatus as recited in claim 28 wherein a second area of the first user interface comprises a tree depicting a plurality of possibilities of a selected module of the at least three modules.

Claim 30 (New): The apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein a third area of the first user interface is configured to enable the user to make a selection among the possibilities of the selected module.

Claim 31 (New): The apparatus as recited in claim 30 wherein the third area is configured to depict the at least one configurable subassembly and respective elements of the selected module.

Claim 32 (New): The apparatus as recited in claim 23 wherein the computer is configured to calculate a process vector based on a first configuration of the at least one element and store the calculated process vector in a storage unit in a stand of the microscope.

Claim 33 (New): The apparatus as recited in claim 32 wherein the stand of the microscope includes an integrated second display configured to depict a method determined by the process vector and based on the first configuration, and to provide a warning to a user in a case of an incorrect combination of a selected element of the at least one element.

Claim 34 (New): A method for configuring an at least partially automated microscope including at least one configurable subassembly having at least one element having a plurality of positions, the method comprising:

depicting a user interface on a display of a computer associated with the microscope;
selecting a first module for configuring the microscope;
selecting the at least one configurable subassembly and determining the at least one element so as to configure the at least one subassembly;
performing fine tuning of the at least one configured subassembly; and
starting a measuring procedure with the microscope.

Claim 35 (New): The method as recited in claim 34 wherein the at least one configurable subassembly comprises at least one of a motorized tube, an incident light axis, an objective nosepiece, a Z-drive for setting a focus, an X/Y-stage, lamp, a condenser and a plurality of control knobs.

Claim 36 (New): The method as recited in claim 34 wherein the at least one configurable subassembly is automated.

Claim 37 (New): The method as recited in claim 36 wherein the at least one configurable subassembly comprises at least one of a motorized tube, an incident light axis, an objective nosepiece, a Z-drive for setting a focus, an X/Y-stage, a lamp, a condenser, and a control knob.

Claim 38 (New): The method as recited in claim 34 further comprising depicting a second user interface on the display, the user interface and the second user interface each including at least three respective areas.

Claim 39 (New): The method as recited in claim 38 wherein a first area of the user interface depicts a selection of at least three modules comprising a first module providing a configuration of the microscope, a second module providing a fine tuning and a third module providing an operation of the microscope.

Claim 40 (New): The method as recited in claim 39 wherein a second area of the user interface comprises a tree depicting a plurality of possibilities of a selected module of the at least three modules.

Claim 41 (New): The method as recited in claim 40 wherein a third area of the user interface is configured to enable the user to make a selection among the possibilities of the selected module.

Claim 42 (New): The method as recited in claim 41 wherein the third user interfaces is configured to depict the at least one configurable subassembly and respective elements of the selected module.

Claim 43 (New): The method as recited in claim 34 further comprising:
calculating, using the computer, after the configuring of the at least one configurable subassembly, a process vector; and
storing the calculated process vector in a storage unit in a stand of the microscope.

Claim 44 (New): The method as recited in claim 43 wherein the stand of the microscope includes an integrated second display configured to depict a method determined by the process vector and based on the first configuration, and to provide a warning to a user in a case of an incorrect combination of a selected element of the at least one element.